

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00110 261055Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 AID-05

/099 W

----- 030898

R 261010Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2908

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SS AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS ON DOWNHILL SLIDE

REF: TRIPOLI 0046, RABAT 0375

1. THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI HAS SENT ANOTHER NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, THE DIRECTOR OF RADIO AND TELEVISION, AND THE EDITORS OF THE TWO TRIPOLI DAILIES, PROTESTING IN VERY SHARP LANGUAGE THE "BASELESS NEWS" BEING PUBLISHED AND BROADCAST BY THESE PARTIES ABOUT THE SAHARA. COPIES WERE ALSO SENT TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. THE EMBASSY SAYS SADLY THAT ITS PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS "BOTH BY DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND BY NOTE" TO CORRECT THE SITUATION HAVE NOT BORNE FRUIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00110 261055Z

2. AFTER DENYING THAT THE MOROCCAN

ARMY IS ENGAGING IN "EXTERMINATION OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE SAHARA (THE LIBYAN PRESS HAD CARRIED A POLISARIO HANDOUT TO THIS EFFECT), THE NOTE GOES ON TO QUOTE GOM FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI'S FLAT STATEMENT IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH AL-AHRAM THAT "LIBYAN ARMS ARE GOING TO ALGERIA TO CONFRONT A BROTHERLY STATE, MOROCCO".

3. THE NOTE CONTINUES: "THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN THE LAR, WHICH IS A PRINCIPAL PARTY IN THE LIBYAN-MOROCCAN DIALOGUE, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCAN - LIBYAN RELATIONS, AND IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THESE RELATIONS, CANNOT REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE FOLLOWING STANDS:

- THE HIDING OF THE FACTS FROM THE BROTHER LIBYAN PEOPLE,

- THE DAMAGING OF MOROCCAN - LIBYAN RELATIONS"
EVERY MOROCCAN IS OFFENDED BY "ALL THAT IS HEARD" ABOUT LIBYAN INITIATIVES, THE NOTE SAYS, IN A REFERENCE TO ARMS SHIPMENTS. IT CLOSES BY APPEALING TO "ALL THOSE OF GOOD FAITH" TO ENLIGHTEN LIBYAN PUBLIC OPINION, AND OFFERING TO ORGANIZE A TRIP TO THE SAHARA FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS EXTREMELY DISINGENUOUS, OF COURSE, SINCE THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY KNOWS VERY WELL THAT LIBYAN PRESS TREATMENT OF THE SAHARAN QUESTION (AND EVERYTHING ELSE) IS CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY QADHAFI, AND THAT QADHAFI HIMSELF SAID PUBLICLY THE OTHER DAY THAT LIBYA WOULD GO ON SUPPORTING THE POLISARIO FRONT (TRIPOLI REFTEL). THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO CONVINCE QADHAFI THAT HE IS WRONG ABOUT THE SAHARA HAVE A DESPERATE RING, AND IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS ARE ON A DOWNHILL SLIDE, PARTICULARLY AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI'S AL-AHRAM INTERVIEW.

5. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH WHETHER PRIME MINISTER OSMAN MET WITH ANY LIBYAN OFFICIALS ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO MALTA.
CARLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIPOL00110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0146
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760120/aaaaarra.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TRIPOLI 46, 76 RABAT 375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS ON DOWNHILL SLIDE
TAGS: PFOR, MO, SS, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006